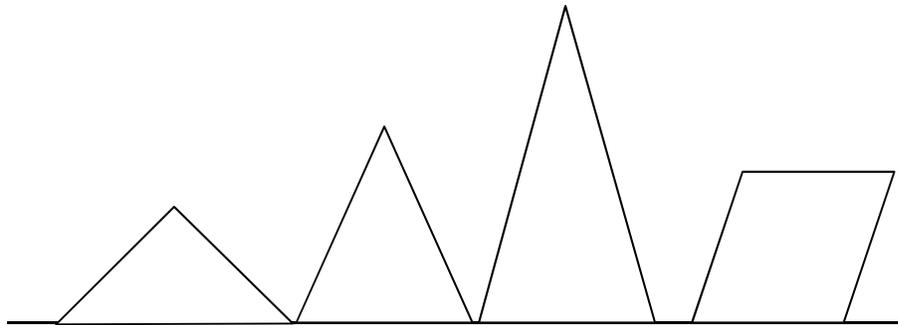


Pyramid Construction: Location and Timing is Everything

Terry W. Noble, Environmental Consultant, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

The familiar axiom when starting or re-locating a business is “location, location, location.” Don’t build where it floods; don’t build on a fault-line; ensure there is enough traffic, etc. Envision all future problems. Is location really that important? Consider this. What if, for example, Egypt’s pyramids had been built elsewhere 5500 years ago (I believe they are actually older)? Timing is another important consideration. Is the building out of style? Is the product on its way out? For that matter, what if the pyramids, the Eiffel Tower, the CN Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa had been built in northern Ontario 10000 years ago? What might the consequences have been?

Northern Ontario has attributes that are conducive to building such structures. Solid bedrock to support their weight. Lots of gravel for cement and mortar if required. If everything is true (i.e., horizontal and vertical) they should stand the test of time. Does this mean straight and tall forever? Now that is something that has always intrigued me. Let’s figuratively move back in time 10000 years and place those structures in northern Ontario.



Now let’s move forward to today and see how those structures fared, assuming of course, that they survived continental glaciation in Canada, which they wouldn’t have, given the bulldozing action of a two-mile high sheet of ice. The research literature indicates that, supposedly, all that ice depressed Canada’s landmass. The good news is, however, that this same landmass rebounded in a process called isostasy. Tilted shoreline profiles are put forth as evidence of this isostatic rebound process. Let’s assume the structures survived the ice onslaught. What would they look like today? Would their vertical axes still pass through the earth’s centre or would the structures look like the depiction below? Should we go back to the drawing board, or call in a ‘location’ consultant, or stop going back in time? What do you think?

